REMARKS

Claims 1-39 are pending in the present application. The Office Action mailed May 15, 2006 (hereinafter "Office Action"), objected to Claims 11, 12, 23, 24, 36, and 37 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but indicated that these claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants thank the Examiner for the indication of the allowability of the aforementioned claims. As will be explained below, applicants respectfully submit that additional claims are also allowable over the cited art.

The Office Action provisionally rejected Claim 1 on the ground of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over copending U.S. Patent Application No. 11,179,433 (hereinafter "the '433 application"). In response, applicants have enclosed a Terminal Disclaimer. Applicants submit that the Terminal Disclaimer renders the aforementioned obviousness-type double patenting rejection of Claim 1 moot.

The Office Action objected to Claim 27 because of an informality. In response, applicants have amended Claim 27 to add the missing semicolon. Applicants submit that the amendment to add the missing semicolon renders the aforementioned objection of Claim 27 moot. Further, during a review of the claims some grammatical errors were noticed. Applicants have made amendments to the claims as noted above. However, no new matter has been added to the present application.

The Office Action rejected Claims 1, 2, 5, 7, 13, 14, 27, 28, 32, 38, and 39 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent Publication No. 2003/0041054, to Mao et al. (hereinafter "Mao"). The Office Action rejected Claims 3, 4, 6, 9, 29-31, and 34 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mao in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,163,147, issued to Orita (hereinafter "Orita"). The Office Action rejected Claims 8 and 33 under

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35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mao in view of U.S. Patent Publication No. 2001/0013096, to Luckenbaugh et al. (hereinafter "Luckenbaugh"). The Office Action rejected Claims 10, 15, 18, 20, 22, 25, 26, and 35 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mao in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,745,180, issued to Yamanoue (hereinafter "Yamanoue"). The Office Action rejected Claims 16, 17, 19, and 21 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mao and Yamanoue in view of Orita.

Prior to discussing in detail the reasons why applicants believe that all of the remaining claims of the present application are clearly allowable in view of the cited and applied references, a brief description of the present application and a brief description of the teachings of the cited and applied references are provided.

Present Application

A system and method for generating aggregated content views in a computing network are provided. A host computing device obtains a request for an aggregated view of content corresponding to a set of criteria. The host computing device applies the query criteria for matching data that is locally stored. The host computing device then queries each computing device in a defined network for locally stored content matching the set of criteria. The query results are merged and displayed to a user at the host computing device as an aggregated list view.

In accordance with an aspect of the present invention, a method for managing data available for access on the network is provided. The method may be implemented in a computer network having two or more computing devices in communication. In accordance with the method, a host computing device included as part of the computer network and associated with a user obtains a request to identify data corresponding to a set of criteria and obtains an identification of data stored on the host computing device associated with the user request and matching the set of criteria. The host computing device automatically obtains an identification of data stored on at least one computing device included in the computer network and matching the set of criteria. The host computing device merges the identification of data stored on the host

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computing device associated with the user request and the identification of data stored on at least one computing device included in the computer network. The host computing device then generates a result of the merging the identification of data stored on the host computing device associated with the user request and the identification of data stored on at least one computing device included in the computer network.

Mao

Mao purportedly teaches the step of transmitting a query to a set of search engines. Any result lists returned from these search engines is received, and a subset of entries in each result list is selected. Each entry in this subset is assigned a scoring value according to a scoring function, and each result list is then assigned a representative value according to the scoring values assigned to its entries. A merged list of entries is produced based upon the representative value assigned to each result list. Mao does not teach, among other limitations, obtaining an identification of data stored on a host computing device associated with a user request and matching a set of criteria.

Orita

Orita purportedly teaches a computer system having a security function, wherein environment profile information defining a file to be accessed and an executable user program are previously stored into a storage unit. The environment profile information is selected by operator profile information corresponding to ID information input by a user. A host computer executes the user program defined by the environment profile information. When a specified file access is requested after the execution of the user program, whether execution of the file access is permitted or not is determined according to access protection information. The access protection information is information having access types and file contents defined by the environment profile information. Orita does not teach, among other limitations, obtaining an

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identification of data stored on a host computing device associated with a user request and matching a set of criteria.

Luckenbaugh

Luckenbaugh purportedly teaches limited access to information stored in a resource of a data processor network in a manner compatible with existing network browsers. The limited access is accomplished by mapping user identity and credentials with randomly assigned security cookie information. Data is retrieved in response to a user request, which includes a security cookie. The retrieved data is then filtered in accordance with labels used to build a response, which may include hypertext links or other user interfaces for transmission to the user. Luckenbaugh does not teach, among other limitations, obtaining an identification of data stored on a host computing device associated with a user request and matching a set of criteria.

Yamanoue

Yamanoue purportedly teaches a data supply controlling device including a database for user data which stores user data matched with each user. The database of user data can be queried in accordance with the user data so that a data server performs a search according to the query and stores the search results in a search result database. User ID management can be performed for separately managing the identifying data to identify each user and user specifying data to specify each user. A search result matched with the identifying data of the user from the search results stored in the search result data base is provided to a user terminal. Yamanoue does not teach, among other limitations, maintaining a record of a search results or merging an identification of data stored on a user computer associated with a user search request and an identification of data stored in a data base that matches a set of criteria.

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Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e)

As indicated above, Claims 1, 2, 5, 7, 13, 14, 27, 28, 32, 38, and 39 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being unpatentable over Mao. Applicants respectfully disagree for reasons discussed in further detail hereinafter.

Independent Claims 1 and 27

Independent Claims 1 and 27 read as follows:

> 1. In a computer network having two or more computing devices in communication, a method for managing data available for access on the network, the method comprising:
>
> obtaining, at a host computing device included as part of the computer network and associated with a user, a request to identify data corresponding to a set of criteria;
>
> obtaining an identification of data stored on the host computing device associated with the user request and matching the set of criteria;
>
> automatically obtaining an identification of data stored on at least one computing device included in the computer network and matching the set of criteria;
>
> merging the identification of data stored on the host computing device associated with the user request and the identification of data stored on at least one computing device included in the computer network; and
>
> generating a result of the merging the identification of data stored on the host computing device associated with the user request and the identification of data stored on at least one computing device included in the computer network.
>
> 27. In a computer network having a computing device directly associated with a user and at least one remote computing device in communication, a method for managing data available for access on the network, the method comprising:
>
> obtaining, by the computing device directly associated with a user, a request to identify data corresponding to a set of criteria;
>
> obtaining, by the computing device directly associated with a user, an identification of locally stored content matching the set of criteria;
>
> transmitting, by the computing device directly associated with a user, a request to the remote computing device for an identification of content matching the set of criteria;
>
> obtaining, by the remote computing device, an identification of locally stored content matching the set of criteria;

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transmitting, by the remote computing device, the identification of locally stored content matching the set of criteria;

merging, by the computing device directly associated with the user, content matching the set of criteria; and

generating, by the computing device directly associated with the user, a result of the merged content matching the set of criteria.

Mao does not teach each and every limitation of independent Claims 1 and 27. In particular, Mao does not teach "obtaining an identification of data stored on the host computing device associated with the user request and matching the set of criteria," as recited in independent Claim 1, and "obtaining, by the computing device directly associated with a user, an identification of locally stored content matching the set of criteria," as recited in independent Claim 27.

The Office Action states that Mao teaches the aforementioned limitation of independent Claims 1 and 27 at Paragraphs 0025 and 0037. The aforementioned paragraphs of Mao purportedly describe an operation that engages multiple search engines to process a query and merge the result lists for presentation to the user. Each of the queries in Mao corresponds to Internet-based search engine queries run on content stored outside of the host computing device (e.g., an Internet search engine.) Mao in no way teaches or suggests that the query would be performed on the host computing device itself to identify data stored on the host computing device or an identification of locally stored content. In Mao, the host computing device is not a search engine and would not maintain locally stored searchable content. Since Mao fails to teach the aforementioned limitation recited in independent Claims 1 and 27, applicants respectfully submit that the aforementioned rejection of independent Claims 1 and 27 is in error. Accordingly, for the above-mentioned reason, independent Claims 1 and 27 are allowable over the cited art. Hence, applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the § 102(e) rejections with regard to independent Claims 1 and 27 and allowance of the claims.

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Dependent Claims 2, 5, 7, 13, 14, 28, 32, 38, and 39

Claims 2, 5, 7, 13, 14, 28, 32, 38, and 39 depend directly or indirectly on independent Claims 1 and 27. As discussed above, Mao fails to teach or suggest all limitations recited with regard to Claims 1 and 27. Accordingly, for the above-mentioned reasons, Claims 2, 5, 7, 13, 14, 28, 32, 38, and 39 are allowable over the cited art. Hence, applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the § 102(e) rejections with regard to Claims 2, 5, 7, 13, 14, 28, 32, 38, and 39 and allowance of the claims.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Dependent Claims 3, 4, 6, 9, 29-31, and 34

As indicated above, Claims 3, 4, 6, 9, 29-31, and 34 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mao in view of Orita. Since Claims 3, 4, 6, 9, 29-31, and 34 depend directly or indirectly on independent Claims 1 and 27, Claims 3, 4, 6, 9, 29-31, and 34 are allowable at least for their dependency on an allowable base claim. Accordingly, applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the § 103(a) rejections with regard to Claims 3, 4, 6, 9, 29-31, and 34 and allowance of the claims.

Dependent Claims 8 and 33

As indicated above, Claims 8 and 33 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mao in view of Luckenbaugh. Since Claims 8 and 33 depend directly or indirectly on independent Claims 1 and 27, Claims 8 and 33 are allowable at least for their dependency on an allowable base claim. Accordingly, applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the § 103(a) rejections with regard to Claims 8 and 33 and allowance of the claims.

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Claims 10, 15, 18, 20, 22, 25, 26, and 35

As indicated above, Claims 10, 15, 18, 20, 22, 25, 26, and 35 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mao in view of Yamanoue.

Independent Claim 15

Independent Claim 15, as amended, reads as follows:

> 15. In a computer network having two or more computing devices in communication, a method for managing data available for access on the network, the method comprising:
> obtaining a user request to identify content stored on the two or more computing devices, wherein one of the computing devices is a local computing device;
> automatically querying the two or more computing devices within the computer network to identify the contents of local computing device storage locations associated with a unique user identifier;
> merging the results of the queries; and
> displaying the results of the merged query results.

Applicants agree with the Office Action that Mao does not teach "querying to identify content associated with a unique user identifier." The Office Action remarks that Yamanoue teaches the concept of querying data based on a user ID at Col. 11, lines 5-13, Col. 19, lines 49-61, and the Abstract, and concludes that Yamanoue reads on "querying to identify content associated with a unique user identifier." Applicants respectfully disagree because the aforementioned sections of Yamanoue purportedly teach that the data supplying means extracts the search results managed by the search result management means and provides the results to a user. Nowhere does Yamanoue disclose that the search or query that generates the search results managed by the search management means is associated with the user ID.

Further, applicants submit that contrary to the remarks accompanying the Office Action, Mao does not teach "automatically querying the two or more computing devices within the computer network to identify the contents of local computing device storage locations." The

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Office Action states that Mao teaches the aforementioned limitation at Paragraph 0025. Paragraph 0025 states that Mao's invention purportedly operates by engaging multiple search engines to process a query and merge the result lists for presentation to the user. Engaging multiple search engines to process a query is not the same as automatically querying the two or more computing devices (wherein one of the computing devices is a local computing device) within the computer network to identify the contents of local computing device storage locations.

Since Mao and Yamanoue fail to teach the aforementioned limitations recited in independent Claim 15, applicants submit that whether or not Mao and Yamanoue are properly combined, Mao and Yamanoue do not teach, suggest, or describe, alone or in combination, the foregoing limitations of Claim 15. Generally described, under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), a *prima facie* case of obviousness can be established only if the cited references, alone or in combination, teach each and every element recited in the claim. *In re Bell*, 991 F2d 781 (Fed. Cir. 1993). As shown above, Mao and Yamanoue do not teach suggest or describe, alone or in combination, all foregoing limitations recited in Claim 15. In this respect, the Office Action has failed to establish a prima facie case of obviousness. Applicants respectfully submit that the 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) rejection of independent Claim 15 is thus improper. Applicants respectfully request that the 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) rejection be withdrawn and Claim 15 be allowed.

Dependent Claims 10, 22, and 35

Applicants agree with the Office Action that Mao fails to teach "maintaining a record of a result of the merging the identification of data stored on the host computing device associated with the user request and the identification of data stored on at least one computing device included in the computer network," as recited in Claim 10, "maintaining a record of the result of the merging the results of the queries," as recited in Claim 22, and "maintaining a record of the result of the merging of content matching the set of criteria," as recited in Claim 35.

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The Office Action is equating "query" in Yamanoue with "the identification of data stored on the host computing device associated with the user request and the identification of data stored on at least one computing device included in the computer network" recited in Claim 10. Applicants respectfully disagree because Figs. 10 and 11 of Yamanoue discussed at Col. 20, line 41, to Col. 21, line 47, state in pertinent sections that the query generator generates queries for each of the users, in accordance with a list of criteria of each user. Nowhere does Yamanoue disclose that a query is the identification of data stored on the host computing device associated with the user request and the identification of data stored on at least one computing device included in the computer network. Accordingly, Yamanoue fails to teach "maintaining a record of a result of the merging the identification of data stored on the host computing device associated with the user request and the identification of data stored on at least one computing device included in the computer network," as recited in Claim 10.

Similarly, the Office Action is equating "query" in Yamanoue with "a record of the results of the merging the results of the queries" recited in Claim 22. Again applicants respectfully disagree because nowhere does Yamanoue disclose that a query is a record of the result of the merging the results of the queries. Accordingly, Yamanoue fails to teach "maintaining a record of the result of the merging the results of the queries," as recited in Claim 22.

Similarly, the Office Action is equating "query" in Yamanoue with "a record of the result of the merging of content matching the set of criteria" recited in Claim 35. Again applicants respectfully disagree because nowhere does Yamanoue disclose that a query is a record of the result of the merging of content matching the set of criteria. Accordingly, Yamanoue fails to teach "maintaining a record of the result of the merging of content matching the set of criteria," as recited in Claim 35.

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Whether or not Mao and Yamanoue are properly combined, Mao and Yamanoue do not teach, suggest, or describe, alone or in combination, the foregoing aspects of the invention recited in Claims 10, 22, and 35 and hence a §103(a) rejection would be in error. Accordingly, applicants submit that the cited and applied references, Mao and Yamanoue, either alone or in combination fail to teach the foregoing limitations of Claims 10, 22, and 35. For these reasons, applicants respectfully request a withdrawal of the §103(a) rejection with regards to Claims 10, 22, and 35 and allowance of the claims.

Dependent Claims 18, 20, 25, and 26

Claims 18, 20, 25, and 26 depend directly or indirectly on independent Claim 15. As discussed above, Mao and Yamanoue, alone or in combination, fail to teach or suggest all limitations recited with regard to Claim 15. Accordingly, for the above-mentioned reasons, Claims 18, 20, 25, and 26 are allowable over the cited art. Hence, applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the § 103(a) rejections with regard to Claims 18, 20, 25, and 26 and allowance of the claims.

Claims 16, 17, 19, and 21

As indicated above, Claims 16, 17, 19, and 21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mao and Yamanoue in view of Orita. Since Claims 16, 17, 19, and 21 depend directly or indirectly on independent Claim 15, Claims 16, 17, 19, and 21 are allowable at least for their dependency on an allowable base claim. Accordingly, applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the § 103(a) rejections with regard to Claims 16, 17, 19, and 21 and allowance of the claims.

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CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing claim amendments and remarks, applicants submit that all of the pending claims remaining in the application, i.e., Claims 1-39 are in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and reexamination of the application, and allowance of the remaining claims at an early date is solicited. If the Examiner has any questions or comments concerning this matter, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the number provided below.

Respectfully submitted,

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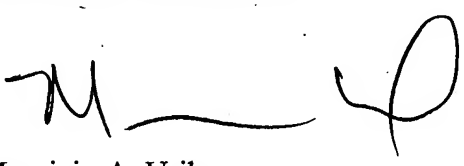

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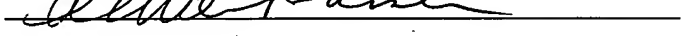
Date: November 15, 2006 

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